



Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**


**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Western Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.41 am): Approximately one-third of our great state has experienced record-breaking flood conditions in this past week. Our Western Queensland communities in my electorate and in the member for Gregory's electorate have experienced rainfall nearly double the yearly average in just a few days, causing flooding the likes of which we have not seen in a lifetime. Communities have been left isolated and primary producers have been decimated with a catastrophic loss of livestock and destruction of infrastructure.

Just last night I returned from Thargomindah. They are not out of the woods yet. For two nights Thargo locals have slept at the airport and at the council depot as floodwaters have risen into the town. These communities are our state's heartland. They are communities I am so very proud to represent. Right now they need our help more than ever and I want them to know we are determined to help them through the immense and long recovery journey that is ahead.

This is the third major disaster to hit Queensland in as many months and the Crisafulli government has once again moved swiftly to ensure flood-affected communities get the help they need. We are delivering support in the form of the personal hardship assistance, fodder drops for primary producers and a disaster loans package to help these communities on the long road to recovery. We share the determination of Western Queenslanders that proves the strength of our Queensland spirit. When faced with adversity, we simply get in there and lift each other up.

I have had the honour of spending the past few days with some incredible people like Rob and Corey from Eromanga and Ted and the residents of Adavale. I caught up with Gina and Cameron, owners of the local butcher shop in Quilpie. They lost their stock and their fencing, but they pitched in to help the community as they faced rising floodwater. I also caught up with Thargo locals Mel, Alan and Nate. Mel and Alan helped coordinate a community barbecue and the council evacuation site. Their son, Nate, has been doing a great job reporting on the floods on his mum's Facebook page.

I also want to acknowledge the tireless work of our mayors: Sally O'Neil from Barcoo, Suzette Beresford from Paroo and many others. I also particularly want to acknowledge Mayor 'Tractor' Ferguson, who has had many a sleepless night, and also Quilpie Mayor Ben Hall, who doorknocked homes with his deputy, Roger Volz, and the member for Gregory late into Friday night to ensure their community felt safe and supported. I also want to mention the chopper pilots. They need a really special shout-out for their efforts. Without them we could not do what needs to happen in these communities. It is people like these, mates helping mates, who make these communities so special.

Our Western Queensland towns may be small in population, but they are mighty in the contribution they make to our great state. We want them to know we continue to have their backs and we will help them rebuild and thrive once again.